

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 3, page 1 of the specification with the following paragraph:

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of [a] Application [Serial] No. 08/511,076 filed August 3, 1995, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference, which is a Continuation-in-Part of Application No. 08/396,569, filed March 1, 1995 (abandoned).

Marked-up claims:

39.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent with a proximal end, a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:
a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, the plurality of undulating band-like elements extending from the proximal end of the stent to the distal end of the stent, adjacent [the plurality of] undulating band-like elements [including two interconnected, non-abutting undulating band-like elements] separated by gaps which are shorter in longitudinal length than the undulating band-like elements, [located at a proximal end of the stent and at least two interconnected, non-abutting undulating band-like elements located at a distal end of the stent,]

the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element, [having alternating first peaks and first troughs, the first peaks longitudinally aligned with one another and the first troughs longitudinally aligned with one another,] a second undulating band-like element [having alternating second peaks and second troughs, the second peaks longitudinally aligned with one another and the second troughs longitudinally aligned with one another] and a third undulating band-like element, [having alternating third peaks and third troughs, the third peaks longitudinally aligned with one another and the third troughs longitudinally aligned with one another] the second undulating band-like element disposed between the first and third undulating band-like elements, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements, [each first interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end, each second interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,]

the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the first undulating band-like element and [second] troughs on the second undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the first undulating band-like element exceeding the number of first interconnecting elements,

the second interconnecting elements extending between [second] peaks on the second undulating band-like element and [third] troughs on the third undulating band-like element, the

number of peaks on the second undulating band-like element exceeding the number of second interconnecting elements.

wherein the number of [first] peaks of the first undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent first interconnecting elements is less than the number of [second] peaks of the second undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent second interconnecting elements.

40.(Amended) The stent of claim 39, the plurality of undulating band-like elements further comprising a fourth band-like element having alternating [fourth] peaks and [fourth] troughs,

the plurality of interconnecting elements further comprising third interconnecting elements extending between [third] peaks on the third undulating band-like element and [fourth] troughs on the fourth undulating band-like element,

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single [third] peak of the third undulating band-like element and a single [third] trough of the third undulating band-like element.

41.(Amended) The stent of claim 40 where one third interconnecting element extends from every third [third] peak of the third undulating band-like element.

45.(Amended) The stent of claim 40 wherein the first undulating band-like element is characterized by a first amplitude and the second undulating band-like element is characterized by a second amplitude, the first amplitude greater than the second amplitude.

46.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a proximal undulating band-like element of a single first wavelength and single first amplitude having alternating [first] peaks and [first] troughs, an intermediate undulating band-like element of a single second wavelength and single second amplitude having alternating [second] peaks and [second] troughs, and a distal undulating band-like element of [a single third] the first wavelength and [single third] first amplitude having alternating [third] peaks and [third] troughs, the intermediate undulating band-like element disposed between the proximal and distal undulating band-like elements, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements, [each first interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end, each second interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,]

the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the proximal undulating band-like element and [second] troughs on the intermediate undulating band-like element,

the second interconnecting elements extending between [second] peaks on the intermediate undulating band-like element and [third] troughs on the distal undulating band-like element,

wherein the first ends of the first interconnecting elements extend from every third [first] peak of the proximal undulating band-like element and the second ends of the second interconnecting elements extend from every third [third] trough of the distal undulating band-like element.

47.(Amended) The stent of claim 46 wherein the plurality of undulating band-like elements further comprises a second distal undulating band-like element having alternating [fourth] peaks and [fourth] troughs, the second distal undulating band-like element distal to the distal undulating band-like element,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including third interconnecting elements extending between [third] peaks on the distal undulating band-like element and [fourth] troughs on the second distal undulating band-like element,

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single [third] peak and a single [third] trough of the distal undulating band-like element.

49.(Amended) The stent of claim 48 wherein the first [and third] amplitude[s are] is greater than the second amplitude, and the first [and third] wavelength[s are] is greater than the second wavelength.

50.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another separated by a gap which is shorter in longitudinal length than each of the adjacent undulating band-like elements, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element [having alternating first peaks and first troughs] and a second undulating band-like element [having alternating second peaks and second troughs], the first and second undulating band-like elements adjacent one another, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end, the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements, [each first interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,] the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the first undulating band-like element and [second] troughs on the second undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the undulating first band-like element, the first path having a first length, and via a second path along the undulating second band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length:



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Amendment

CONCLUSION

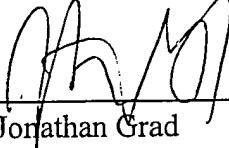
In light of the foregoing, entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is requested. It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 10, 2000

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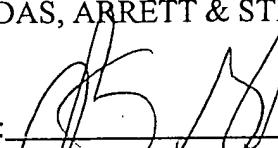
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Supplemental Amendment

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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